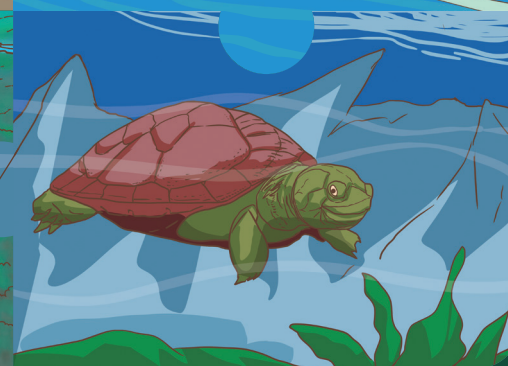
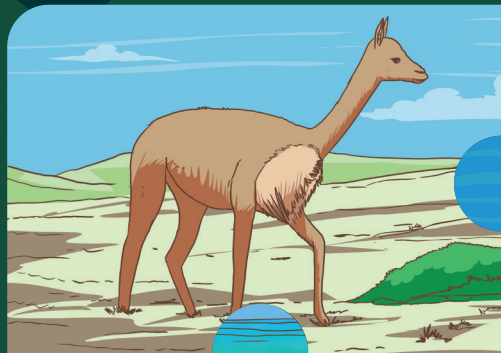


INFORMATION BOOKLET ON THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY



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ACRONYMS

CDB Convention on Biological Diversity

COP Conference of the Parties

GEF Global Environment Facility

UN United Nation

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I.

Importance of biological diversity

Nature, also known as biological diversity or Mother Earth, is essential for human existence and good quality of life, since it plays a fundamental role in the provision of food, energy, medicines and genetic resources; and a whole variety of fundamental materials for the physical well-being of people, the conservation and integrity of the culture through the practice of their ancestral knowledge. For example, globally more than 75% of food crop types (such as fruits and vegetables) and some of the most important cash crops (such as coffee, cocoa and almonds) depend on animal pollination. In turn, biological diversity, through its ecological and evolutionary processes, regulates the climate, so the loss of resources is one of the causes of climate change, and there is a direct link between both concepts [Ipbes, 2019].

The UN Convention on Biological Diversity [CBD] states that the signatory parties are aware of the intrinsic value of biological diversity and the ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic values it has in this sense, the discussions and future perspectives on the use and conservation of these resources are key to the survival of humanity.



II.

The Convention on Biological (CBD)

2.1. What is the Convention on Biological Diversity?

The CBD constitutes a legally binding international treaty, that is, it is mandatory for the signatory States to comply. This treaty is considered the main international instrument for the sustainable development of the world; and part of its mission is to address the crisis of biodiversity loss. It entered into force on December 29, 1993 and is currently made up of 196 countries.

The three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity are:

1) Conservation of biological diversity,

2) The sustainable use of its components

3) The fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources

The CBD has developed three additional components to meet with the three goals: The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits; the Cartagena Protocol, which deals with transboundary movements of living modified organisms resulting from biotechnology, and which could have adverse effects on the conservation and use of biological diversity; and Article 8J which provides that the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities shall be respected, preserved and maintained.

The CBD addresses biological diversity at all levels: ecosystems, species and genetic resources. Additionally, biotechnology is included through the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. From this, its comprehensive approach stands out.

2.2. The CBD and indigenous peoples

This agreement establishes commitments for the maintenance of biological diversity as a global asset for the survival of humanity and recognizes that the conservation of biological diversity constitutes an integral part of the development process.



Also, it recognizes the contribution of the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities to achieve priority objectives, such as the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, among others of importance [Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 2020].

Article 8 j): Traditional knowledge

Article 10 c): Customary sustainable use of biological diversity

Article 17: Exchange of information, including its repatriation

Article 18 4): Scientific and technical cooperation, including indigenous and traditional technologies



Political structure of the agreement:

The implementation of the CBD is developed through the participation of the States that signed the agreement, in spaces where the progress of the proposed goals is discussed. COP 15 was held in 2021 and in 2022 it will be hosted by China, and the crisis situation of biodiversity loss in which the world finds itself will be addressed.

- **The Conference of the Parties:** Is the highest governing body of the Agreement and is made up of the subscribed countries. The CBD COP holds biannual meetings during which decisions are made on the operation, implementation and monitoring of the convention. In these meetings it is also possible to have the participation of some observers such as non-governmental organizations [ONG] and intergovernmental organizations [IGO], other United Nations agencies, States that are not party to the agreement, representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities.



- **Executive Secretariat:** The main function of this instance is assisting governments in the implementation of the CBD and its work programs, organize meetings, draft documents, coordinate the work of the convention together with other international organizations, as well as collect and disseminate information. To date, Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, a Tanzanian national, holds the position of Executive Secretary of the CBD and has made it a priority to establish successful negotiations in the development of a robust and ambitious global biodiversity reference framework after 2020.

- **Civil society:** One of the main mechanisms that enables the participation of civil society lies in *the admission of observers CBD*. In this regard, article 7.1 of the Internal Regulations of the CBD details that this space applies to organizations or qualified agencies in the fields of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity that wish to be represented as observers at the meetings of the Conferences of the Parties and their subsidiary bodies. These observers may, upon invitation by the chairman of the meeting, participate without the right to vote in the work of any meeting on matters that directly concern the body or agency they represent, unless one third of the parties present at the meeting object; thereto, it is worth mentioning that by partnering with the Convention Secretariat, non-governmental organizations can obtain the following benefits: a) Linking to governments through the CBD; b) Accessing CBD tools; c) Increasing visibility and d) Access information resources and better integrate their work with the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans [EPANB] of the parties.



3.1 The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity as a space for participation

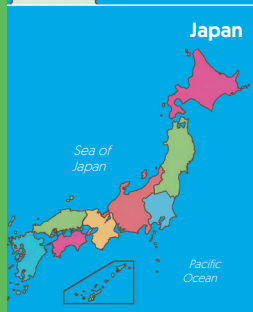
COP-CBD Background



Brazil

1992

The United Nations Earth Summit was held in Rio de Janeiro [Brazil]. In this event, a series of commitments were adopted, among which the CBD on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity stood out. This was the beginning of the agreement.



Japan

2010

Subsequently, the tenth COP meeting, held in 2010 in the city of Nagoya (Japan), adopted a Strategic Plan for Biological Diversity for the period 2011-2020. This is a framework for action for all countries, in order to save biological diversity and improve its benefits for people. Given this, 20 goals were adopted, called the Aichi Biodiversity Goals, organized into five strategic objectives:



China

2022

The CBD COP15 will be held in Kunming [China]. It is planned to establish a new Global Biodiversity Framework to achieve the 2050 vision.

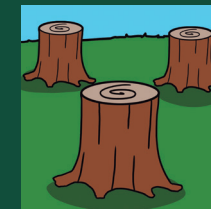
IV.

Strategic objectives of the 2010 Action Plan

As mentioned above, these goals were not met, so a new action plan is currently being negotiated, which are implemented through national goals.

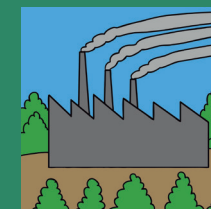
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE A:

Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by incorporating them throughout government and society.



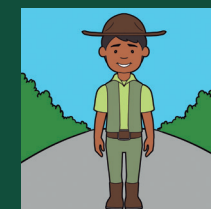
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE B:

Reduce direct pressures on biological diversity and promote sustainable use.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE C:

Improve the status of biological diversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE D:

Increase the benefits of biodiversity and ecosystem services for all.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE E:

Improve implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building¹.



¹ It is worth mentioning that these provisions were elaborated in the 2010 Plan. However, it is necessary to mention that it is about strengthening and exchanging capacities among organizations, indigenous peoples and other actors.

The setting of these goals has revealed the multilateral commitment to establish national objectives that support the Aichi Biodiversity Targets².

V.

- **COP-CBD 2022** The fifteenth meeting of the COP on Biological Diversity [CBD-COP15] will be the largest conference on biodiversity in the last decade. Political, political leaders are expected to establish an agreement on a new **Global Biodiversity Framework**, which will allow the 2050 vision to be achieved: living in harmony with nature and achieving a transformative change that positions nature on the path of recovery by 2030. Additionally, during this phase, the adoption of relevant decisions is expected, such as the mobilization of resources and other aspects aimed at the implementation of the protocols of the Convention on Biological Diversity, elements that address the fair distribution of benefits of the use of biodiversity and transportation, as well as the manipulation and management of living modified organisms, key to the protection of forests and rights.



CBD COP15 will be held in Kunming [China] in two phases:

The first phase took place virtually from October 11 to 15 of 2021 and included a high-level segment on October 12 and 13.

The second phase will be a face-to-face meeting in **Kunming** from April 25 to May 8, 2022.

² The Aichi Biodiversity Targets were intended to mainstream biodiversity into all areas of government.

Relevance to the current situation in the Amazon

In 2020, the planet lost an area coverage larger than the UK, including a total of 4.2 million hectares of tropical forest. This has been caused, above all, by the increase in deforestation and localized fires in the Amazon [Global Forest Watch, 2021]. In addition to this, a report by the organization Frontline Defenders [2020] revealed that in 2020 they murdered 331 human rights defenders in the world, of which 69% worked in defense of the land, the environment and the rights of native populance. Of the 331 registered murders, 264 occurred in the American Continent and the most worrying figure was presented by Colombia, with 177 deceased defenders. This situation has been replicated in Peru, where 10 environmental defenders have been killed during the state of health emergency, declared on March 11, 2020 [Ojo Público, 2021].

Under this critical context, the COP on Biological Diversity provides an opportunity for the delegations of the Amazon governments and the rest of the world to highlight the importance of building a vision of conservation focused on the Amazon and promote commitments in the agenda of work, such as the conservation of protected natural areas, the protection of traditional knowledge, the strengthening of the rights approach, interculturality, the gender approach, adaptation and mitigation strategies to climate change and the promotion of treaties such as the Escazú Agreement. That is why this COP is as important as the meetings on climate change. In this sense, the commitment of the States is key and urgent to reverse the current situation.



VI.

Financing for the execution of the agreement

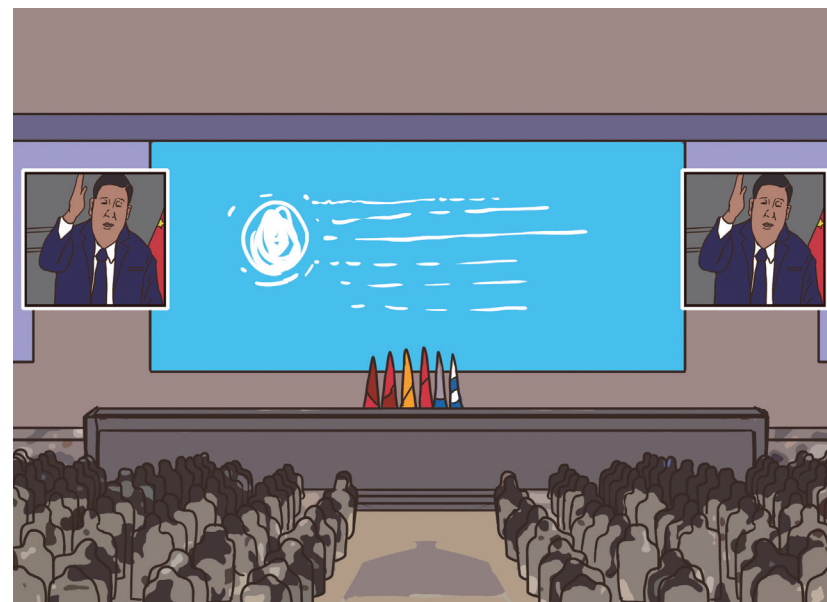
Financial contributions under the CBD are voluntary for the parties. This includes financial support for the operation of the Secretariat, the organization of COPs and other meetings, as well as the funds available to facilitate less resources States to implement the actions derived from the commitments arising in the CBD [Grau, 2014].

Funding for projects linked to the CBD objectives is mobilized through the Global Environment Facility [GEF]. It is an organization created by one of the most criticized international institutions: the World Bank, which is jointly managed with several United Nations programs and organizations, as well as with the development banks of each region of the planet [Grau, 2014]. This financial instrument is responsible for granting donations to “developing countries and those with economies in transition” for projects related not only to biodiversity, but also to climate change and other global environmental problems [Grau, 2014]. In this sense, the financial institutions have a role in the execution of the agreement and, therefore, in the achievement of the goals that are proposed, as well as in the way that they are implemented.



VII.

The Kunming Declaration



On October 13, 2021, more than one hundred countries adopted the Kunming Declaration as a result of the first part of the CBD-COP15 meeting. This declaration demonstrates **the global commitment to an ambitious and transformative 'post-2020 global biodiversity framework'**, which will provide a strategic vision and global roadmap for the conservation, protection, restoration and sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystems for the next decade, under the slogan "Ecological Civilization: building a shared future for all life on Earth". The Kunming Declaration addresses the key elements necessary for the success of the post-2020 framework. These are: the integration of biodiversity in all decision-making processes, elimination and redirection of harmful subsidies, improving the rule of law, and increasing financial, technological and training support to developing countries, among others.

The declaration outlines 17 commitments for member countries and calls for international collaboration on a number of issues, as well as greater efforts at the national level. These commitments are divided into four axes.



Protection of biodiversity:

Commitments such as the development and application of a global biodiversity framework are proposed to reverse the course of biodiversity degradation and be on a "recovery path" with a view to 2030. Additionally, the adoption of an ecosystem approach to building resilience and helping humans adapt to the adverse effects of biodiversity loss and climate change.



Policy and Regulation:

It aims to integrate conservation and biodiversity into government decision-making on issues such as poverty reduction, economic policies, regulations, and other government policies. It also raises the improvement of environmental legislation, both international and national, and strengthen the application of laws.



Financial:

Reforms aimed at gradually eliminating or suppressing financial incentives that are harmful to biodiversity are contemplated. Likewise, it is proposed to provide financial tools to developing countries to help them fulfill the commitments of the agreement.



Community participation:

Allows the active participation of indigenous and local communities, as well as all interested parties, in the elaboration and application of a biodiversity framework. Similarly, it is planned to develop educational tools to improve communication and raise public awareness.

CONCLUSIONS

In recent years, the loss of biodiversity has gained notoriety from the global repercussions and catastrophes that impact the planet. In this context, international cooperation is a vital element for development and reducing vulnerability to disasters generated by humans and nature. However, the mechanisms to reach a cooperative management of the environmental crisis have so far been unsuccessful and diplomatic efforts aimed at controlling environmental threats do not seem to be sufficient. Proof of this is the Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services of 2019 that revealed that none of the 168 signatory countries of the Aichi goals managed to achieve even one of their goals for the year 2020 (Berger, 2020). Viewing this scenario suggests that it is time for governments to increase their national and international ambitions by adopting mechanisms focused on supporting the global framework for the protection of biological diversity. Along these lines, one of the first efforts by President Xi Jinping has been highlighted, who, as host of the COP, has taken the initiative to create a Kunming fund, aimed at supporting the conservation of biodiversity in developing countries.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- It is necessary to strengthen learning activities on CBD-COP 15 and identify this space as an important milestone to impulse natural resource conservation initiatives, such as protected natural areas.
- The proposed goals for 2050 should include the strengthening and development of greater mechanisms for respecting and implementing human rights, intercultural and gender approaches, so that the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity are fulfilled and developed hand in hand with indigenous peoples and traditional communities.
- A greater socialization of the CBD and its importance by the States is necessary, through the pertinent institutions, with the indigenous peoples and traditional communities of the Amazon basin. In this way, a document will be achieved based on adequate and timely information, as well as on the exercise of the right to participation.
- It is necessary to take into account the initiatives and the treaties that are already in the Latin American region, such as the Escazú Agreement, which goes hand in hand with efforts to protect human rights defenders and environmental and indigenous defenders, and environmental justice. In this way, articulating efforts for the benefit of those who live in the areas most affected by the loss of biodiversity.



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